

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a networked computer system for offering to recipients of published works of authorship a license to use a work of authorship, comprising:

- a. assembling on a computer network a database of web pages, each web page associated with one of a plurality of works of authorship and with a unique work identifier, each web page presenting to any of a plurality of client computers on the network an offer of a license to use the associated work of authorship;
- b. from a server on the computer network, providing to a client computer on the network one of said works of authorship and providing, associated with said work, a machine readable copy of the unique work identifier associated with said work and a hotspot which, when selected at the client computer, provides the unique work identifier for use as a part of a network address, thereby directing the client computer to the web page identified by the unique work identifier for receiving information from said web page.

2. A method in a networked computer system for granting licenses to use a work of authorship and publishing records of said licenses, comprising:

- a. assembling on a server on a computer network a database of web pages, each web page associated with one of a plurality of source works of authorship, each web page presenting to any one of a plurality of client computers an offer of a license to use the associated source work of authorship;
- b. receiving at the server from one of said client computers, relating to one of said web pages, an acceptance of the license to use the associated source work of authorship;
- c. in response to said request, creating on a server on the computer network a record associated with said accepted license and containing information about said accepted license, said record identified by a unique license identifier and accessible by any client computer on the network; and

- d. providing to said client computer said unique license identifier for presentation with a licensed use of said source work of authorship.

5 3. A method in a networked computer system for providing a work of authorship based on a source work of authorship and presenting information regarding a license to use the source work of authorship granted by an owner of copyrights in the source, comprising:

10 a. assembling on a computer network a database of records, each record associated with a license to use a source work of authorship and with a unique license identifier, each record containing information about said license; and

15 b. from a server computer on the network, providing to any of a plurality of client computers on the network a work of authorship based on a source work of authorship and providing, associated with said provided work, a machine readable copy of the unique license identifier associated with said provided work and a hotspot which, when selected at the client computer, provides the unique license identifier for use as a part of a network address, thereby directing the client computer to the record identified by the unique license identifier for receiving information from said record.

20 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the information received includes specification of a number of copies of the source work that the license authorized to be made.

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